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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 356
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Dr. Douglas R. Noble
on his exemplary service as Director of
Museums for the Pink Palace Family of
Museums in Memphis, Tennessee for 21 years.

WHEREAS, The Tennessee General Assembly is proud to salute those individuals who
make a major contribution to our cultural and historical heritage; and

WHEREAS, It was with very deep regret that the members of this body learned that Dr.
Douglas R. Noble, Director of Museums for the Pink Palace Family of Museums for 21 years,
has accepted the Position of Chief Executive Officer of the Indiana State Museum in
Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Under Dr. Noble's expert guidance, the Pink Palace Family of Museums
(formerly known as the Memphis System) has had a major expansion to include numerous
facilities; and

WHEREAS, During his outstanding tenure, a highly successful membership program
was implemented, permanent exhibits were added and 67,000 square feet of new space was
constructed during 1990-1995; and

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WHEREAS, Additional improvements included the renovation of the Sharpe Planetarium, a new changing exhibit hall was constructed and new offices and support space were added; and

WHEREAS, The museum system took over the oversight of the Magevney House in 1974, the Mallory-Neely House in Victorian Village in the mid-1980s, the Lichterman Nature Center opened to the public in 1983 and the Coon Creek Science Center, a Cretaceous fossil site in McNairy County was also acquired; and

WHEREAS, Opened in 1995, the very popular IMAX Theatre is the only such facility which is underground; and

WHEREAS, A much needed educational wing was added and the Pink Palace Mansion was renovated, with all new exhibits; and

WHEREAS, After a devastating fire destroyed the Lichterman Nature Center in 1994, Dr. Noble oversaw the planning of a new and improved state-of-the art center, which will include the Backyard Wildlife Center and is scheduled to open in Summer, 2001; and

WHEREAS, In order to fund these marvelous projects, Dr. Noble played a crucial role in the raising of more than 35 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Under his able tutelage, the Pink Palace Family of Museums established its first endowment and hired competent staff; and

WHEREAS, The museums have received accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM) twice and the Lichterman Nature Center was the first in the nation to receive the prestigious AAM accreditation; and

WHEREAS, The Museum's model membership program now includes more than 4,000 households; and

WHEREAS, During Dr. Noble's illustrious tenure, the Pink Palace Family of Museums has served more than 7 million visitors; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Douglas R. Noble has also served admirably as President of the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) and served two three-year terms as a valued member of the American Association of Museums Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Dr. Noble was also a founder of the Metropolitan Memphis Attractions Association (MMAA); and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to reflect on Dr. Noble's countless contributions to the residents of Tennessee and express our deep appreciation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Dr. Douglas Noble and express our best wishes for a successful future in his new position.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.